

Remarks

Claims

Claims 1-9 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention.

Claim 1 is amended to more clearly indicate that the NIR radiation utilized therein is emitted from NIR emitters at a wavelength ranging from about 250 to about 5500 nm, and that a coated borosilicate glass, silica glass, and/or vitreous ceramic filter is used in such step to restrict the wavelength of the NIR radiation emitted from such emitters to a wavelength ranging from 250 to 3000 nm, wherein the restricted NIR radiation primarily has a wavelength ranging from 750 to 1200 nm.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 have been amended to accommodate the amendments made to claim 1 and/or make grammatical modifications to the claims.

Claim 5 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof.

Support for these amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed; and page 2, line 31 to page 3, line 10.

No new matter has been added.

Specification

The specification is being amended to correct typographical errors. Applicants apologize for any inconvenience that such errors may have caused the Examiner. Applicants note that "EP-A-1 280 176" as cited on page 2 of the application as originally filed addresses low voltage contactors. Unfortunately, two numbers of the reference were inadvertently transposed, and that the reference should have been correctly cited as EP-A-1 208 176.

As for the wavelength utilized to produce the surface of Figure 2, Applicants respectfully assert that instead of indicating that such surface was produced by effectuating curing at a filtered NIR radiation "wavelength >1800 nm", the wavelength should have been identified as being "<1800 nm."

Applicants, however, respectfully assert that in light of the information set forth in the specification regarding the wavelength range of filtered NIR radiation, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized such an error as a typo.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to page 3, lines 25-29, wherein Applicants indicate that a radiation filter effectively restricts the wavelength of the radiation produced by a conventional NIR emitter so that wavelengths above 1800nm and below 400 nm, and even more preferably below 750nm, are completely or virtually masked out. As a result, a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the wavelength stated in Figure 2 should be "<1800 nm" and not ">1800nm".

No new matter is added.

Summary

If the Examiner has questions regarding the application or the contents of this Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Should there be a fee due which is unaccounted for, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,

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